



**VERMONT BUILDS GREENER  
PROGRAM**

**Program Overview**  
*Version 3.6 (03/2009)*

**A PROJECT OF:  
BUILDING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
P.O. Box 8882  
Burlington, Vermont  
[www.bsr-vt.org](http://www.bsr-vt.org)**

## ***Program Description***

Thank you for your interest in the *Vermont Builds Greener* (VBG) Program. This program has been in development since 1999. The following is an outline of the VBG Program along with the *VBG Scorecard* (Version 3.6).

### ***Overview***

The VBG Program, an initiative of Building for Social Responsibility (BSR), certifies residential buildings that are constructed to sustainable criteria. The criteria, as detailed in the Scorecard, have been created and supported by regional and national experts and can be changed and updated periodically through an open review process. The focus of the program is to promote the construction of homes that are healthy, durable and have a reduced impact on the immediate environment and the global resources that support our built environment. The program is intended for new residential construction and substantial renovation, primarily. However, it can also be applied to renovation and remodeling, but will require prudence in order to achieve certification.

Management of the program occurs by the VBG Program Committee that has been appointed by the BSR Board of Directors, which has ultimate oversight over the program. The program is administered by Building for Social Responsibility (BSR). The VBG Scorecard has been used in other residential sustainable-certified programs in the Northeast, including Massachusetts' Cape Light Compact. Membership in BSR is open to all that are interested and pay the minimal annual dues.

### ***Certification***

In order to receive VBG certification, applicants must 1) incorporate all of the required approaches and 2) score a minimum of 100 points. Points are achieved through a combination of sustainable strategies and approaches, including house size. To receive recognition beyond the minimum certification threshold, applicants accumulate points as designated on the Scorecard.

Certification is achieved through a combination of self-documentation, inspection as part of Vermont ENERGY STAR Homes inspections and spot inspections for other green features. Applicants seeking certification must document each of the approaches found in their building by submitting a completed "*VBG Scorecard Verification Form*". BSR staff or their designees reserve the right to inspect any building or the records of any building seeking or having sought certification. Certifications are awarded as "Vermont Builds Greener Certified with XX Points".

There is a \$700 fee for processing certification and final review. After an initial meeting with the applicant VBG verifiers are available on a per hour fee to help the applicant with the certification process.

## ***Program Components***

The VBG Program components include the following:

*Scorecard*: A multi-page list of approaches, including the basic requirements with the available points that determine a building's score. A minimum number of points (100) must be achieved in order to receive the basic level of certification. Points are also awarded for house size and can be determined using the House Size Point chart found at the end of the Scorecard.

*VBG Scorecard Verification Form*: A binder and form to use to document compliance with the VBG Scorecard. A completed Binder is submitted upon completion to demonstrate program compliance and is the basis for house certification.

*VBG Handbook*: An accompanying guide that details what is required to obtain points for each approach, provides supplemental details and explanations, and lists information on materials and product resources is under development. Until the VBG Handbook is completed, we are referring applicants to the Sustainable Building Industries Council "Green Building Guidelines" handbook available through the US Department of Energy ([www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/building\\_america](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/building_america)).

*Web Site*: VBG Program information and materials are available at [www.bsr-vt.org](http://www.bsr-vt.org).

## ***Oversight***

The VBG Program Committee is made up of designees of the BSR Board of Directors and is comprised of a dozen individuals with expertise in construction and sustainability. Committee members are appointed for one year terms with the option of renewal as determined by the BSR Directors.

## ***Criteria Modification and Updates***

VBG Criteria are modified and updated according to the following procedures:

Changes are submitted in writing with:

- a) a specific suggestion of the modification being proposed;
- b) substantiation, research and justification for the change; and
- c) contact and affiliation information of the person proposing the change.

Suggestions are reviewed and acted on by the Program Committee not less than once a year.

Review and action by the Committee may occur more often if deemed warranted by the Committee or BSR Board of Directors. The BSR Board of Directors approves any VBG Program changes.

Additional points created from action taken on suggestions and changes will be available retroactively to buildings on which these approaches had been installed.

## ***Vermont Builds Greener Committee***

### ***Committee***

Keith Dewey - deweyaia@sover.net  
Richard Faesy - rfaesy@veic.org  
Jeff Gephart - jgephart@veic.org  
Michael Horowitz - michaelh@pivot.net  
Chuck Reiss - vbreiss@gmavt.net  
Danny Sagan - dsagan@sover.net  
Jim Vann - yimbo98@gmavt.net  
David Pill-dpill@pillmaharam.com  
Hillary Haselton- hillaryhaselton@gmail.com

### ***Advisory Board***

Chris Carley - cjarley@sover.net  
Hilary Harris - hharris@benwood.com  
Andy Shapiro - andy@energybalance.us  
Ambrose Spencer- ambroserspencer@yahoo.com

## ***Contact Information***

### ***For Technical Assistance:***

*Chuck Reiss*  
802-482-3295

### ***For Enrollment Contact:***

*Jessica Van Steensburg*  
*Building for Social Responsibility*  
*P.O. Box 8882*  
*Burlington, Vermont 05402*  
*jvansteensburg@bsr-vt.org*

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